ナナマル

17

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

裏那圭

graffiti design:晏童秀吉

...TO TAKE THE CHOKERS OFF OF EVERYBODY HERE...

IT MIGHT BE TOO MUCH WORK...

...OR KICK YOUR ASS, THEN THIS WHOLE MESS WILL GO AWAY.

BUT IF WE CAN TAKE YOUR MICRO-PHONE...

CHAPTER 140: WEAKNESS (PART 1)

WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PROOF TO GET INVOLVED BEFORE.

BUT NOW HE HAS TAKEN OFF HIS **MASK.**

THE **CAPTAIN** HAS ORDERED US TO CAPTURE MYMO.

DEPUTY CAPTAIN NIJIKU.

PER-MIS-SION TO LAUNCH THE AS-SAULT?

HE IS DISTRACTED. THIS IS OUR BEST CHANCE.

IF THE CLEANERS WILL BE THE FRONTAL ATTACK, WE SHALL STRIKE FROM BEHIND.

WERE WE TO CONFRONT HIM NOW, WE SHOULD MERELY BE COMPELLED TO FIGHT HIS **DOLLS.**

NAY.

WE WILL ENGAGE IN THE UNGLAM-OROUS WORK.

I SWEAR TO YOU, I WILL LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTA-TIONS.

SISTER.

I WILL NOT END UP AS ZANKA DID.

KILL THEM !!!

IF I DODGE...

...ALL THESE PEOPLE...

WILL BE CRUSHED.

...WE WILL BE CRUSHED.

IF I DON'T DODGE...

YOU'RE THAT DEVIOUS, EVIL MR. MYMO?!

POW

十!!

!!

WHAT ...?

...ISN'T VERY NICE!

CON-TROLLING OTHER PEOPLE...

FU ?!

AMO ?!

CHAPTER 141: HANDS

SNAP

SO THOSE ARE THE CLEANERS...

SNAP

SNAP

FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, I'M SURE MERE HUMANS LOOK LIKE INSIGNIFICANT SPECKS.

THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO DEAL WITH TRASH BEASTS EVERY DAY. TRASH BEASTS THAT WE STILL KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

I DIDN'T EXPECT ALL OF THEM TO BE SO SCRAWNY.

SFF

THEY WANT TO KEEP THEIR HUMANITY.

AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THEY'RE HOLDING BACK. THEY DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE.

YOU BETTER NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE CLEANERS, THOUGH.

ALL EXCEPT FOR THAT GIRL.

POKE

I GUESS THIS BARRIER IS THE ONLY POWER YOU HAVE, HUH?

WOW, I'M RIGHT UP IN YOUR FACE, AND YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING BACK OR ANYTHING.

A CARTA, OR A "LETTER," IS THOUGHT INCARNATE.

THE SENDER CHOOSES THE PERFECT STATIONERY FOR THE RECIPIENT.

INSCRIBES IT WITH THEIR OWN, HAND-WRITTEN WORDS.

AND CARRIES IT PERSONALLY TO THE POST OFFICE TO MAIL IT, THEIR HEART FULL OF EMOTION.

HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO CUT BEFORE I BREAK THROUGH?

LOOKS LIKE I HAVE TIME TO EXPERIMENT!

IF THAT LETTER IS FROM A LOVED ONE, THOSE THOUGHTS WILL BE EVEN MORE UNSHAKABLE.

THIS IS FELIX'S VITAL INSTRUMENT, CARTA.

AND IT'S IRONCLAD.

AND SHE'S TRYING TO CUT THROUGH THOSE THOUGHTS.

ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

RUDO SURE-BREC!!

ギャアアアアアSMIRRRRRk

GO AHEAD AND CUT THAT DEFENDER GUY TO SHREDS, RIYO, BUT LEAVE MYMO FOR ME.

ZWOM ZWOM ZWOM ZWOM ZWOM ZWOM

I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF HIM MYSELF.

SO YOU ARE JUST AS HEARTLESS AS THE REST OF THEM!!

HA!
HA
HA
HA
AH
IT'S JUST LIKE A GAME OF TAG!

YOU WANNA GET UP CLOSE BECAUSE I'M A RANGED FIGHTER, EH?!

WELL, I'M FAST, TOO, YOU KNOW!

THAT SO?

KLING

KA-

PASH

LOOKS LIKE IT CAN'T JUST ALTERATE ANY OLD THING IT HITS.

THAT BAT YOU GOT THERE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

GILMERO, MY VITAL INSTRUMENT,

CAN ONLY TURN BALLS INTO BREAKING BALLS.

I'VE NEVER TRIED IT, BUT...

I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I HIT A DUDE IN THOSE BALLS.

DID THAT MAKE YOU LOSE YOUR BALLS?!

COME ON, EVERY-ONE!

YOU CAN DO IT!!

GO, GO, FIGHT, FIGHT!!

AAAHHH! RRRAAA

WHAT IS EVEN HAPPENING OVER THERE...? SHE IS A FORCE.

IN A WAY, THAT'S INSANE.

LOVE IS A MAGICAL THING THAT GIVES PEOPLE POWER!!

IT'S LOVE !!!

DID YOU FEEL LOVE FROM RUDO WHEN HE WAS RAINING HIS FISTS OF FURY ON YOU?

AMO EMPOOL.

IS IT REALLY BECAUSE YOU LIKE HIM?

AND YET NOW,

YOU'VE GOTTEN IT INTO YOUR HEAD THAT YOU WANT TO HELP RUDO...

YOU ONCE BARED YOUR FANGS TO THE CLEANERS,

AND TOOK A FIST FROM RUDO.

THINK BACK.

REMEMBER THE PAIN OF THAT UNFAIR BEATING.

YOU HADN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!

YOU WERE ONLY TRYING TO DEFEND YOURSELF!

THE CLEANERS WANT TO MAKE YOU THINK YOU WERE THE BAD GUY!

SO THEY CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR WATCHMAN SERIES SHOES!!

OR IS HE A REPLACEMENT FOR YOUR "MISTER"?

AND YOU WOULD FIGHT FOR THOSE PEOPLE?!

AND PERHAPS YOU ARE ONLY ATTEMPTING TO REPEAT YOUR PAST?

AMO DOESN'T MIND. WE MADE UP.

SO WE BOTH TOLD EACH OTHER WE'RE SORRY.

AMO DID TERRIBLE THINGS.

RUDO DID TERRIBLE THINGS, TOO.

POW

POW

THE FIRST TO TOUCH AMO WITH WARM HANDS.

RUDO WAS THE FIRST.

...AMO ONLY EVER KNEW COLD HANDS BEFORE.

RUDO'S HANDS MADE AMO'S WORLD BIGGER.

AND GO LEARN ABOUT MORE SCENTS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!!!

AMO WILL STAY IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE RUDO IS!

CLICK

HOW THIS WORLD...

...TAKES THE IGNORANT CREATURES THAT HAVE ONLY JUST EMERGED FROM THEIR CAGES...

...AND GOBBLES THEM UP.

THEN ALLOW ME TO TEACH YOU.

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

YOU WANT TO "REFORM YOURSELF."

TO "MAKE AMENDS."

THAT'S PLENTY REASON TO JOIN THE CLEANERS.

NOT AT ALL.

SOME PEOPLE ARE ONLY HERE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.

...REALLY? YOU DON'T THINK AMO'S REASON IS SHALLOW COMPARED TO EVERYONE ELSE...?

CHAPTER 142: EXPERIENCE POINTS

SO LET'S GIVE YOU A JOB.

BUT ANYONE CAN JUST BE HERE.

A JOB...?

FIGHTING TRASH BEASTS ISN'T THE ONLY WAY A GIVER CAN CONTRIBUTE.

AMO DOESN'T LIKE FIGHTING...

YOUR POWER IS SMELL.

YOU RECREATE A SCENT FROM THE TIME YOU EXPERIENCED SOMETHING, AND MAKE SOMEONE SMELL IT.

AND YOUR POWER "MAKES YOUR TARGET RECALL SIMILAR MEMORIES."

IS THAT RIGHT?

...BUT IT NEVER MADE ANYONE LOOK VERY HAPPY.

MAKING PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN LOVE, OR LIKE THEY DO WHEN THEY'RE WITH SOMEONE THEY CARE ABOUT.

AMO IS ESPE-CIALLY GOOD AT...

YES.

...

WHAT?

SO LET'S MAKE YOU A HEALER.

I'M GUESSING YOU'RE A VERY SENSITIVE PERSON.

...TO COMFORT AND LIFT OTHERS.

I BELIEVE YOU CAN BE SOME-ONE WHO CAN USE YOUR EX-PERIENC-ES...

SENSITIVE PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO WILLINGLY ABSORB THEIR EXPERIENCES.

"LACK OF EXPERIENCE."

THIS IS WHAT THAT LEADS TO.

AMO EMPOOL.

DO YOU THINK EVERY PERSON HERE HAS SOMEONE THAT THEY'D WANT TO PROTECT?

YOUR VITAL INSTRUMENT AND YOUR POWERS ARE HIGHLY EXCEPTIONAL.

YOU'RE AN IGNORANT LITTLE GIRL WHO SPENT NEARLY A DECADE LOCKED IN A TOWER.

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN USE YOUR "EXPERIENCE" TO MOTIVATE OTHERS?

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE SUPPLY OF SCENTS—THE EXPERIENCE—NEEDED TO USE THAT POWER DO YOU?

...IS VIRTUALLY A PEARL BEFORE SWINE.

WITHOUT EXPERIENCE, YOUR POWER...

WHEREAS I HAVE REFINED MY WORDS IN ORDER TO FULLY CONTROL THE MASSES!

YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY HOPE TO BEAT ME!

WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD!!

RIYO.

RUDO.

I HAVE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF YOU, FRANKLY.

KA-FWOOM

AMO!!

WHOOSH

THESE CHILDREN HAVE OPPOSED ME.

KILL THEM.

MY DEAR PUPPE-TEER PERFORM-ERS.

IF YOU WANT TO DEFEAT ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT THEM FIRST.

TO DO THAT, YOU MAY HAVE TO HURT THE TREASURES OF THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE.

GRNK

IN FACT, I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU CAN AVOID IT.

AH, I LOVE THE VIEW FROM UP HERE ON MY PEDESTAL!!

FWAH

DAMN. WE DIDN'T WANT THEM TO GET HURT...

CAN AMO EVER...

THANKS FOR THE PARADE OF ORDERS, SIR!!

FU.

TAKE AMO SOMEWHERE SAFE.

DON'T LET THEM CATCH YOU.

...TO COMFORT AND LIFT OTHERS.

WHO CAN USE YOUR EXPERIENCES...

I BELIEVE YOU CAN BE SOMEONE...

...REALLY BE THAT KIND OF PERSON...?

IS IT WORSE THAN SHE THOUGHT...?

IS AMO USELESS ...?

YOU'RE AN IGNORANT LITTLE GIRL WHO SPENT NEARLY A DECADE LOCKED IN A TOWER.

AMO COULDN'T ARGUE WITH THAT MEAN MAN.

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN USE YOUR "EXPERIENCE" TO MOTIVATE OTHERS?

I'M WITH MYMO. WHAT HE SAID WAS SPOT-ON.

GRIT

SO JUST SIT THERE LIKE THAT, TAKING IN THOSE WORDS.

AND MELT INTO A PUDDLE OF TEARS.

YEP! YOU'RE USELESS.

THEN YOU CAN EXPERIENCE "DISCOUR-AGEMENT."

WHEN YOU DO THAT...

...YOU'LL EXPERIENCE "VINDICATION."

IF IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU, STAND UP.

SHOW ME HOW WRONG I WAS FOR CALLING YOU USELESS.

!

IF I'M GONNA NEUTRALIZE THEM, I'LL HAVE TO BREAK THEIR CHOKERS...

I CAN'T GO BREAKING PEOPLE'S VITAL INSTRUMENTS.

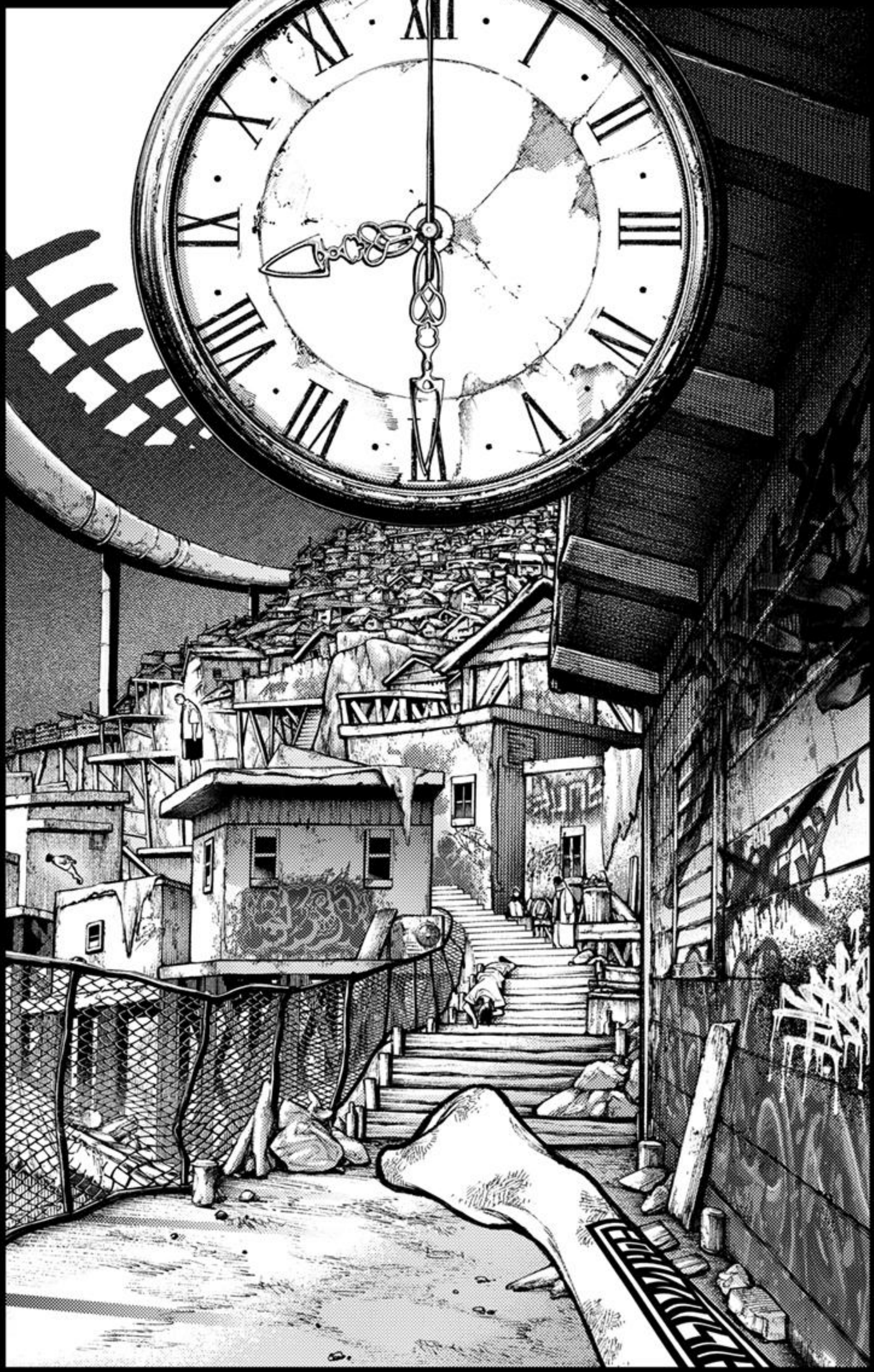
YOU GUYS WERE WEARING CHOKERS, TOO.

OHH... YEAH.

I FORGOT.

...THE TWIN CLEANERS?

CAN YOU NEUTRALIZE YOUR FRIENDS...



CHAPTER 143: DANGER

TEAM DANGER.

FROM THE CLEAN-ERS'

LI'L BRO,

EPALTE ADDEROY.

BIG BRO,

OTTO ADDEROY.

YOU VETERAN CLEANERS KNOW EXACTLY HOW POWERFUL THEY ARE, NO?

INFIGHTING IS THE ULTIMATE FORM OF ENTERTAIN-MENT.

YOU WERE TELLING FOLLO YESTER-DAY...

ABOUT THE CLEANERS' TEAM NAMES.

HP0

YOU MENTIONED DANGER. WHAT IS THAT TEAM LIKE?

SOLITARY.

TEAMWORK IS ONE OF THE WAYS WE DEFEND OURSELVES.

...IS THAT WE WORK IN THE POLLUTED ZONES, WHERE THERE'S NO ONE ELSE AROUND.

THE REASON THE CLEANERS' GIVERS WORK TOGETHER AS TEAMS...

WHOOSH

...HE SAID THE SAME THING AT THE SAME TIME AS ME!!

GUYS THAT ARE TOO MUCH FOR EVEN THE CLEANERS TO HANDLE GET PUT IN DANGER.

PEOPLE WHO ARE DEVOID OF DECENT HUMAN SKILLS AND AIN'T GOT NO COOPERATIVITY...

GIVERS WHOSE POWERS DON'T PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS...

TEAM-WORK... WEIGHS THEM DOWN...?

BUT IN **DANGER**, TEAMWORK WEIGHS THEM DOWN, LIKE A BALL AND CHAIN.

THEY'RE THE STRONGEST OF THE CLEANERS, AND THEY'RE ALL LONE WOLVES.

AND IT PISSES ME OFF.

THEY'RE A TEAM, BUT THEY AIN'T A TEAM.

WHAT YOU SEE IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU GET.

SIMPLE AS SIMPLE CAN BE.

VITAL INSTRU-MENT-WISE AND POWERS-WISE.

NO, IN A WAY THEY ARE POSILUTELY SOLITARY.

I GUESS "SOLITARY" DOESN'T APPLY TO THE TWINS!

?

HP0

THE STRONGEST... OF THE CLEANERS...!!

OH.

TEAM-
WORK
FOR
THEM
ALONE.

A TWO-MAN BATTLE UNIT.

YOU FIGHT TRASH BEASTS, SO YOU NEVER HAVE TO HOLD BACK.

THE CLEANERS WEREN'T ORGANIZED TO FIGHT OTHER HUMANS.

...IS NOTHING BUT A MONSTER.

THAT BEING THE CASE, A CLEANER WHO DOESN'T HOLD BACK WHEN FIGHTING HUMANS...

コロリ ROLL

OH, DEAR, MY STAGE!

THIS AIN'T GOOD...

WHOOSH

SFF...

WHOOSH

BAM

BOOM

COME ALONG, NOW!!

...!"OH, I DON'T WANT TO BREAK THEIR VITAL INSTRU-MENTS"!!!

YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE WIBBLING ABOUT HOW...

THEY MEAN BUSINESS. IF YOU WANT TO STOP THEM, I RECOMMEND DESTROYING THEIR VITAL INSTRUMENTS!!!!

EVERYTHING HERE IS GARBAGE!!

IF YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO BRING ANY GARBAGE TO WEAPONIZE, JUST LOOK AROUND!!

AND THEN, IF I CAN!

I WANT TO CONTROL IIIT!!!

LORD MYMO!! YOUR IMAGE OF A CALM AND COLLECTED RULER IS CRUMBLING!!

USE EVERY-THING YOU'VE GOT!!!

USE YOUR POW-ERS !!

IT'S NOT FAIR TO ONLY SHOW THE INFO BROKER !!

I WANT TO SEE A BIG ONE, TOO!!!

STUPID TURDFACE.

I'M NOT GONNA GRANT YOUR WISH.

AND I'M NOT GONNA SHOW YOU A BIG ONE.

I'M NOT GONNA DESTROY ANYONE'S VITAL IN-STRUMENT.

I ALREADY HAVE MY WEAPON!

IT'S RIGHT HERE!!!

HURRY, HURRY!

...

A DOG...

A WOLF... WHAT'S THAT?

NO!!! IT'S A WOLF!!!

I MADE THAT FOR THE DOLL FESTIVAL WHEN I WAS 13!

BUT THE NEIGH-BORHOOD BULLY MESSED IT UP!

A FRICKIN' AWESOME ANIMAL THAT'S EXTINCT NOW!!!

NOW ITS LOWER JAW IS GONE FOREVER!!!

CHAPTER 144: SIMPLE

BOOYAH

AND I DESIGNED EVERYONE'S DOLL FEST COSTUMES AROUND YOUR ENSEMBLE!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?! PRETTY FRICKIN' FRESH, RIGHT?!

BUT...

BUT THESE THINGS ALL MEAN SO MUCH TO YOU...

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO WEAR THEM...?

AND, AND!! THESE BOOTS!!!

...

I TRIED ADDING DRIPS FROM THE METAL I MELTED TO ATTACH THE STUDS, AND THEY GOT HELLA HEAVY!

I TAI-LORED IT ALL TO FIT YOU, RUDO!!

I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THEM, FOR TEACHING ME THE IM-PORTANCE OF WEIGHT REDUC-TION!!

AND FOR YOUR INFORMA-TION, THE JACKET...

WAS MADE WITH SCRAPS FROM THE FIRST FABRIC I EVER CUT!!

I COULDN'T THROW THEM OUT, SO I HELD ONTO THEM FOR TEN SOME-ODD YEARS!!

JUST SMELL THE AROMA OF THE DRESSER DRAWER!!

YO, SLOW DOWN!!! EISHIA, MY DEAR SISTER!

AUGGIE SAID HE WANTS YOU TO WEAR THEM, RUDO.

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING HIM WEAR, AUGGIE!!

NOW I HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT I ALSO GAVE HIM THE FIRST UNDERPANTS I ACCIDENTALLY POOPED!!!

HE KNOWS THAT YOU CAN FIND THE WORTH IN ANYTHING.

AND IT MADE HIM WANT TO USE LOTS OF HIS TREASURES FOR YOUR COSTUME.

AAAAA-HHH!!! NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!!!

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL HIM ALL THAT!!

BUT IF YOU HAVE TO CARRY A BACKPACK OR WHATEVER, IT WOULD RUIN THE WHOLE DESIGN!!

...IF THE WORST SHOULD HAPPEN, YOU'LL FEEL BETTER KNOWING YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU CAN MAKE INTO A WEAPON, RIGHT?

SO YOU HAVE MY PERMIS-SION...

TO TURN THOSE CLOTHES INTO WEAPONS!!!

IF I KNOW YOU...

YOU'LL USE THEM WITH LOVE, AND THEY'LL GO OUT WITH A BANG.

YOU WON'T LET MY MEMORIES GO TO WASTE!!

YOU'VE BEEN WEARING TRASH THIS WHOLE TIME?!

...

IT'S NOT TRASH.

THEY'RE VALUABLE ITEMS, FULL OF MEMORIES AND LOVE.

TMP

YOU HAVEN'T DONE ALL YOUR RESEARCH, MYMO.

I THOUGHT YOU COULD ONLY MAKE WEAPONS OUT OF TRASH AND BROKEN STUFF.

HMM?

GNN

MY 3R DRAWS OUT AN OBJECT'S FULL WORTH!

KTHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

THE MORE LOVE IT'S BEEN GIVEN...

THE MORE IT EXPLODES WITH POWER!!

HE DISAPP–

?

...

HGUGH

...A LITTLE TOO FAST...

CRUMBLE

THAT WAS...

HE RE-MEM-BERED...

I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THEM, FOR TEACHING ME THE IMPORTANCE OF WEIGHT REDUCTION!!

I TRIED ADDING DRIPS FROM THE METAL I MELTED TO ATTACH THE STUDS, AND THEY GOT HELLA HEAVY!!!

HE APPLIED WEIGHT REDUCTION AND USED THEM FOR SPEED.

YOU'RE EXACTLY THE KIND OF PERSON...

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DRESS UP IN MY CREATIONS!!!

...THIS IS LIKE SWATTING A FLY!!!

TO THE TWINS...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DESTROY THEIR VITAL INSTRU-MENTS THAT WAY!!!

WHAT IS THE POINT IN RAISING YOUR SPEED?!!!

YOU WENT TOO SIMPLE !!

WHAP!!

READY, AND!

TEP
TEP
TEP
TEP
TEP

GLANCE

GLANCE

...

THMP

CLAP

WHIRL

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

I WAS NEVER PLANNING TO GO AGAINST THEIR VITAL INSTRUMENTS.

...ONLY WORKS THROUGH THE CHOKERS.

YOUR "RULE"...

SFF

IT'S SIMPLE.

WITHOUT A CHOKER...

ZH ZH ZH

ZH ZH ZH ZH

DO THEY, MYMO?

...THEY DON'T FALL UNDER YOUR "RULE."

CHAPTER 145: SKADOOSH

...

SKADOOSH!!

SKADOOSH!!

RUMBLE

SKADOOSH!!

SKADOOSH!!

SKADOOSH!!

SKADOOSH!!

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

SKADOOSH!!

SKADOOSH!!

STOMP

RUMBLE

NICE TO MEET YOU, RUDO!

THANK YOU, RUDO!

HUFF

WHEEZE

HUFF

WHEEZE

HUFF

POW!!!

FREED FROM EVIL RULE...

...SKA-DOO-SH!!

I'M THE YOUNGER BROTHER EPALTE!

I'M THE BIG BROTHER OTTO!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO SKA-DOOSH YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE!!!

...

BEHOLD OUR NORMAL STATE!

AND GIVE IT A HUG!!!

THEY HAVE A LOT OF PERSON-ALITY...

MAYBE I SHOULD PUT THEIR CHOKERS BACK ON THEM...

ERGO WE ARE FULLY APPRISED OF THE SITUATION.

WE MAINTAINED CON-SCIOUS-NESS WHILE UNDER HIS RULE.

NO NEED!

SO, UH... LET ME FILL YOU IN...

FIP

SHE'S OVER THERE.

!

OH.

HOW IS RIYO DOING?

HE MESSES WITH ALL THE REST OF US FROM HIS SAFE LITTLE PANIC ROOM.

BUT THAT IRONCLAD BARRIER IS IN THE WAY.

DAMN THAT MYMO. I WANT TO SMASH HIM WITH AN IRON FIST.

UM...

FRICK !!!

BUT MYMO IS IN THE IRON-CLAD BAR-RIER.

SO WE GIVE MYMO THE IRON FIST.

YEAH, NOT WORTH THE EFFORT. WE ARE NOT CUT OUT FOR THAT KIND OF TEDIOUS WORK, EPALTE.

BUT THAT WOULD BE A PAIN IN THE ASS, OTTO, MY BROTHER.

OH...

APPARENTLY WE CAN FREE EVERYONE FROM HIS RULE BY TAKING OFF ALL OF THEIR CHOKERS.

UH...

ZA-

IN THAT CASE...

ZSH

...WE'LL CLEAN UP THE BIG GUYS.

SKADOOSH FESTIVAL!!!

I CAN'T HANDLE THIS...

SO THIS IS TEAM "DANGER."

SYNCRO STYLE !!!

OUR UNIQUE TECHNIQUE THAT CAN'T BE RECREATED FROM UNDER ANOTHER'S RULE!

STEP BACK AND WATCH CLOSELY, RUDO!!

OMNI-
DIRECTIONAL
CROSS
SKADOOSH!!

KA-

STRIKE

FWOOM

HIYAH!!!

FESTIVAL!!!

SKA-DOOSH...

...

...

ANY HUMANS STILL ALIVE?

RIGHT. WE HAVE TO TAKE OFF THEIR CHOKERS.

OH.

THEY'RE GOING TO UNDO YOUR RULE, ONE SUBJECT AT A TIME.

I THINK IT'S TIME WE CONSIDER WITHDRAWING...

BUT WE ARE CURRENTLY FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE...

YOU HAVE MADE A FINE DISPLAY OF THE POWER OF YOUR RULE.

LORD MYMO.

IF YOU WON'T PARTICIPATE IN ANY INFIGHTING, I REQUEST THAT YOU LEAVE THE STAGE.

LISTEN, MY LOYAL SUBJECT.

I AM WATCHING TO SEE HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED TO **COUNTER** MY RULE.

EXCUSE ME?

I ASSURE YOU.

THIS WON'T BE THE ONLY TIME PEOPLE TRY TO STAND IN MY WAY.

IT'S HUMAN NATURE TO FIGHT AGAINST ANOTHER'S CONTROL.

YOU EX-PERIENCE THE MOST GROWTH WHEN THE REHEARS-ALS ARE OVER.

THESE CLEANERS REALLY DESERVE MY GRATITUDE.

I MUST COUNTER THE COUN-TERING.

AND DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS THE PERFECT TRAINING FOR THAT?

WHAT A DIRTY MOUTH YOU HAVE.

FRICK FRICK FRICK !!!

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO WISE, AND I SUGGESTED THAT WE TURN TAIL AND RUN!!!

FRICK! FRICKIN' FRICK!!!

I NEEDED TO FIND A POTENTIAL NEW TOOL.

GOUNTESS. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'LL BE ABLE TO USE HIM.

AND THE CHOKER MAKER...

THE CLEANERS ARE THE GIVERS THAT KEEP ON GIVING.

TINGLE

!

FELIX.

THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME TO TEST HOW IRONCLAD YOUR BARRIER REALLY IS.

...

...

THOSE ARE THE EYES OF A BEAST THINKING ABOUT HOW TO BREAK OPEN A TORTOISE SHELL.

...I WILL SMASH HER, FANGS AND ALL.

DOES SHE THINK SHE'S SOME KIND OF PREDATOR?

...

HMM
...

SHOOM

SHRRR

HMM
...

SNIP

CHAPTER 146: HAVE A BALL

IF I JUST GO FOR IT ANYWAY, I GET LESS THAN A SECOND OF IMPACT...

I CAN'T GET A GRIP WITH MY SCISSORS.

ESPECIALLY WITH SPHERICAL OBJECTS, IF THERE'S NOT A NOTCH OR A NICK SOMEWHERE,

THAT SHELL IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.

I GUESS NOT. IF THEY COULD MOVE, THEY WOULDN'T STILL BE IN THAT ONE SPOT.

Hup- two!

Hup- two!

I DON'T SUPPOSE THEY COULD COME CHARGING AT ME?

HMM ...

KA- THWAK

KA- THWAK

OH?

THWAK

KA-THWAK

TAK

KHING

TAK

TAK

RUMBLE

I ORDERED MY **BALLS** TO HIT *YOU.*

THEY'RE NOT AIMING FOR YOUR STICK.

HOW LONG CAN YOU KEEP THIS UP?

THOSE BALLS WANT TO HIT SOME PART OF YOUR BODY...

ONCE I GIVE THEM THE ORDER, I DON'T CONTROL THEM ANYMORE.

...AND THEY WON'T STOP FOLLOWING YOU UNTIL THEY DO!!

KA-POP

...

...THE LITTLE JERK.

YOUR POWER DON'T WORK NO MORE, NEITHER.

LOOKS LIKE IF THEY AIN'T BALLS NO MORE,

FSHHHH

PLOP

PLOP

PLOP

WELL, WELL.

...

DROP

DROP

DROP

JUST CASUALLY SLICING THROUGH HIGH-SPEED BALLISTICS.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING AN "AVERAGE JOE" DOES.

THE ONES WHO ARE ALL, "I DIDN'T STUDY," AND GET A PERFECT SCORE ON THE TEST.

HE'S ONE OF THOSE SNOOTY ELITE KIDS.

SHAME. THEY MADE FOR SOME GOOD TRAININ'.

ALMOST OUT OF BALLS, EH?

I'M NEVER OUT OF BALLS!

ZZZZZZIP

MY VITAL INSTRUMENT GILMERO...

...CAN TURN *ANY* SPHERICAL OBJECT INTO A BREAKING BALL!

...THE FUNGOES NEVER END!!

SO AS LONG AS I HAVE THE ENERGY...

THAT'S GREAT!

HUH?

RIYO TAKES THE MOUND!

AND THROWS A PITCH!

OOPS.

TAP

ZA-

ZOOM

I'M GOING TO... CUT THIS THING!

BACK ME UP FROM BEHIND?

POW

ZANKA, STAY RIGHT THERE!

WHOOOOA WHOA WHOA, WHAT ARE YA DOIN', RIYO! THAT BALL'S COMIN' STRAIGHT FOR ME!!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GIL!!!

WHAT!? YOU JUMPED OUT IN FRONT OF ME!!

POW

DO NOT MESS THIS UP!!

SERI-OUS-LY...

GRG GRG GRG GRG GRG GRG GRG GRG GRG GRG GRG

MY LETTERS ARE ABSOLUTELY UNBREAKABLE.

SO YOU DELIBERATELY RESORTED TO THIS MADNESS...!!

...YOU COULDN'T GET A GOOD GRIP FROM THE AIR,

GIL'S POWERS AND MY SHIELD WILL COMBINE TO TURN YOU INTO ROADKILL!

THAT WAS A BAD DECISION. WHEN THOSE SCISSORS SHATTER,

THEN I CAN CUT THROUGH IT.

CANNOT BE SURPASSED BY ANYONE!!!

MY FEEL-INGS... THE STRENGTH OF MY LOVE!!!

WHEN "LOVE" IS TOO STRONG...

...THEN IT'S EASY FOR CRACKS TO GET IN.

PKT

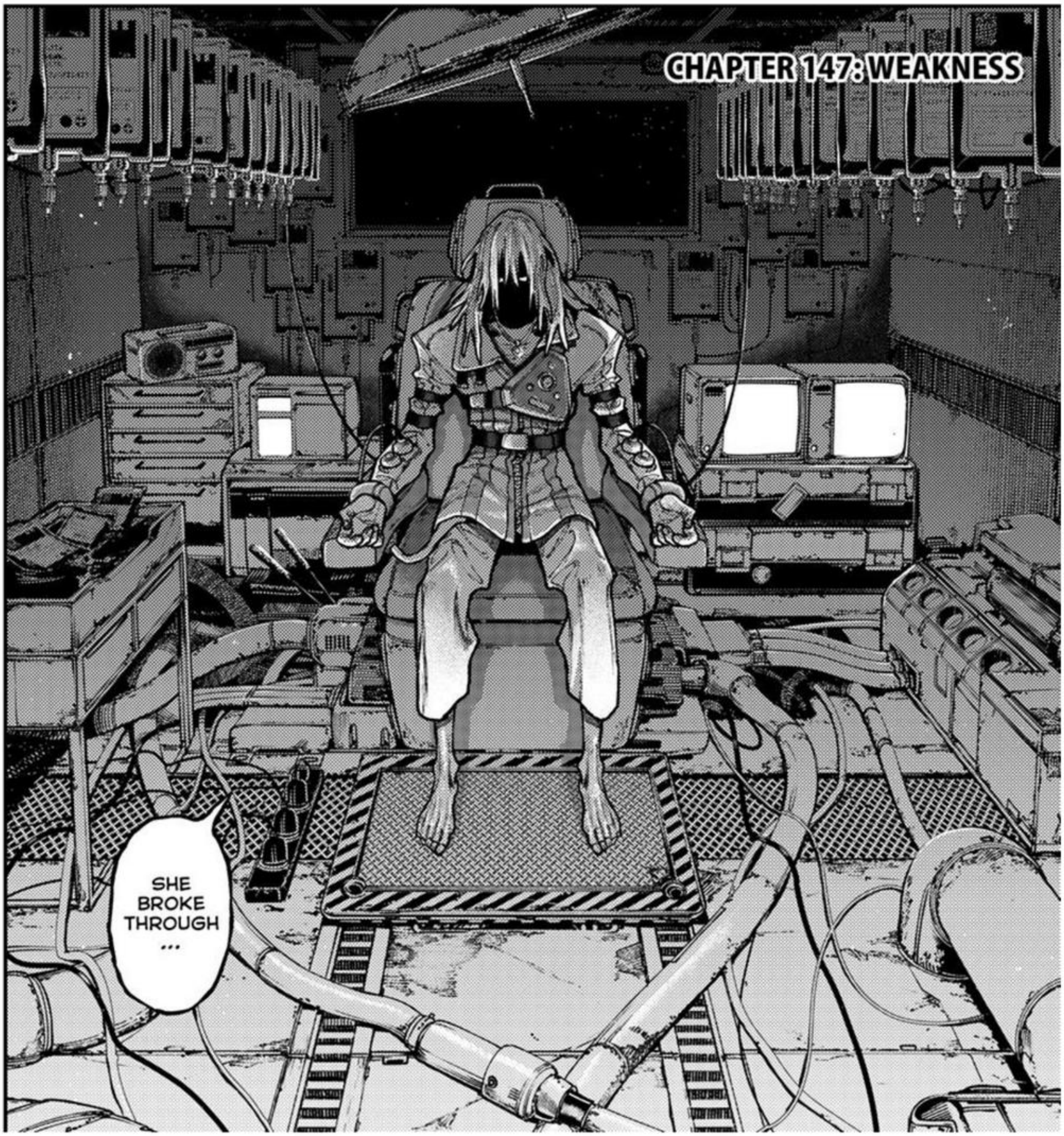
YOU SEE?

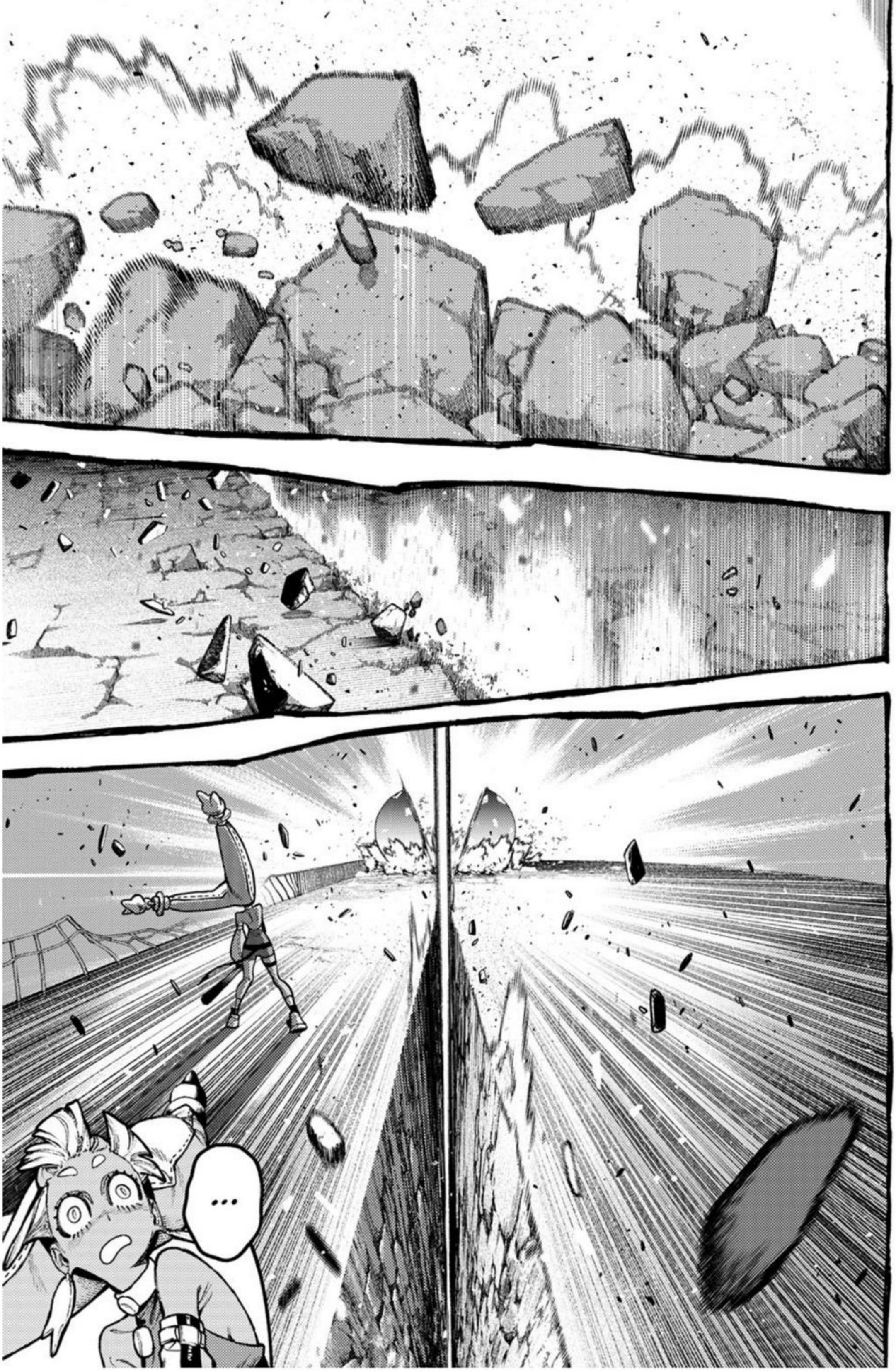
THERE.

GOUNTESS KNOCK,

I PRE-SUME?

DO YOU LIKE HIGH PLACES?


CHAPTER 147: WEAKNESS
SHE BROKE THROUGH ...


...

ARE YOU... GONNA DOCK MY PAY?

SMACK

AGH!

THUD

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

BLUH

HER TYPE ALWAYS TRIES TO PULL SOME SUPERFLUOUS GARBAGE AFTER THE FACT.

BEST TO TIE HER UP.

THE LAST LETTER ...

FROM MY WIFE...

MY... LETTER...

...DON'T PITY ME, GIRL.

DON'T PITY ME.

I AM NOW, LORD MYMO'S SHIELD...!!

WHEN I LOST THE LOVE OF MY LIFE, IT WAS LORD MYMO'S WORDS THAT SAVED ME.

I WILL CONTINUE TO BE THAT SHIELD...!!

BUT AS LONG AS I HAVE NOT BROKEN... MY LETTER MAY BE TORN TO SHREDS ...

THIS TIME, I WILL KEEP MY LOVED ONE FROM HARM!!

COME AT ME!! RIYO REAPER!!

YOU CAN CUT IT INTO A MILLION TINY PIECES,

BUT YOU CANNOT SHAKE MY UNCON-QUERABLE LOVE!!

YOU'RE KIND OF ANNOYING.

WHAM

GLANCE

キョロ

キョロ

GLANCE

WHERE DID MYMO GO OFF TO?

...

KNHZH

...GOUNT-
ESS.

WHEN I MET YOU, YOU WERE OVERFLOWING WITH AMBITION TO RISE HIGHER IN THE WORLD.

UNTIL ONE DAY YOU DECIDED YOU WANTED TO STOP.

20 YEARS.

IT TOOK A LONG TIME FOR YOUR CHOKERS TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE OLD COMMUNI-CATORS.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THE CLEANERS WERE COMING TO DOLL FEST.

IT MUST HAVE TAKEN A LOT OF EFFORT TO KEEP THAT FROM ME.

I MADE SURE THAT WHEN I TURNED THE AUDIENCE INTO MY PUPPETS, I WOULDN'T CONTROL YOU WITH THEM. AND IT BACKFIRED.

IT WAS A GOOD CALL TO TIME YOUR REBELLION FOR THIS MOMENT.

WHERE YOU ARE IS OUTSIDE MY RULE.

VERY GOOD.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU REIGN OVER THIS ENTIRE FESTIVAL VENUE.

YOU RULE EVERYTHING WITHIN THE SOUND OF YOUR MICRO-PHONE.

THE SAME AS WHEN YOU USE YOUR NORMAL POWERS, MY LORD MYMO.

FELIX.

WHAT'S THE RANGE ON MY "RULE"?

SIR!

AFTER ALL, I ORDERED YOU TO REPORT EVERYTHING TO ME.

I WONDER IF YOU'VE DEVELOPED A RESISTANCE TO MY ORDERS AFTER TAKING SO MANY OF THEM.

EVERY PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT YOU LEARN THROUGH YOUR CHOKERS.

ENOUGH OF YOUR PREAMBLE.

YOUR DEFENSES HAVE ALL BEEN DEFEATED.

AND THE COUNTER AGAINST YOUR RULE HAS BEGUN.

I KNEW YOU WOULD COME TO ME WHEN THE TIDE STARTED TO TURN.

YOU HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK ME, DON'T YOU?

MYMO?

...

YOU'RE GOING TO USE A WEAKNESS OF MINE TO THREATEN ME AND FORCE ME TO DO YOUR BIDDING.

YOU ALWAYS RESORT TO THE SAME METHODS WHEN YOU CAN'T GIVE ORDERS.

BUT I HAVE NO MORE WEAKNESSES.

MY FAMILY, MY FREE-DOM.

EVEN MY DIGNITY. YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN IT.

YOU'VE TAKEN IT ALL.

YOU'VE USED UP ALL OF MY WEAK-NESSES, AND NOW...

...YOUR WORDS HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME.

THE CURTAIN WILL CLOSE ON YOUR "RULE"...

...AND YOU CAN DROP DEAD ALONG WITH IT.

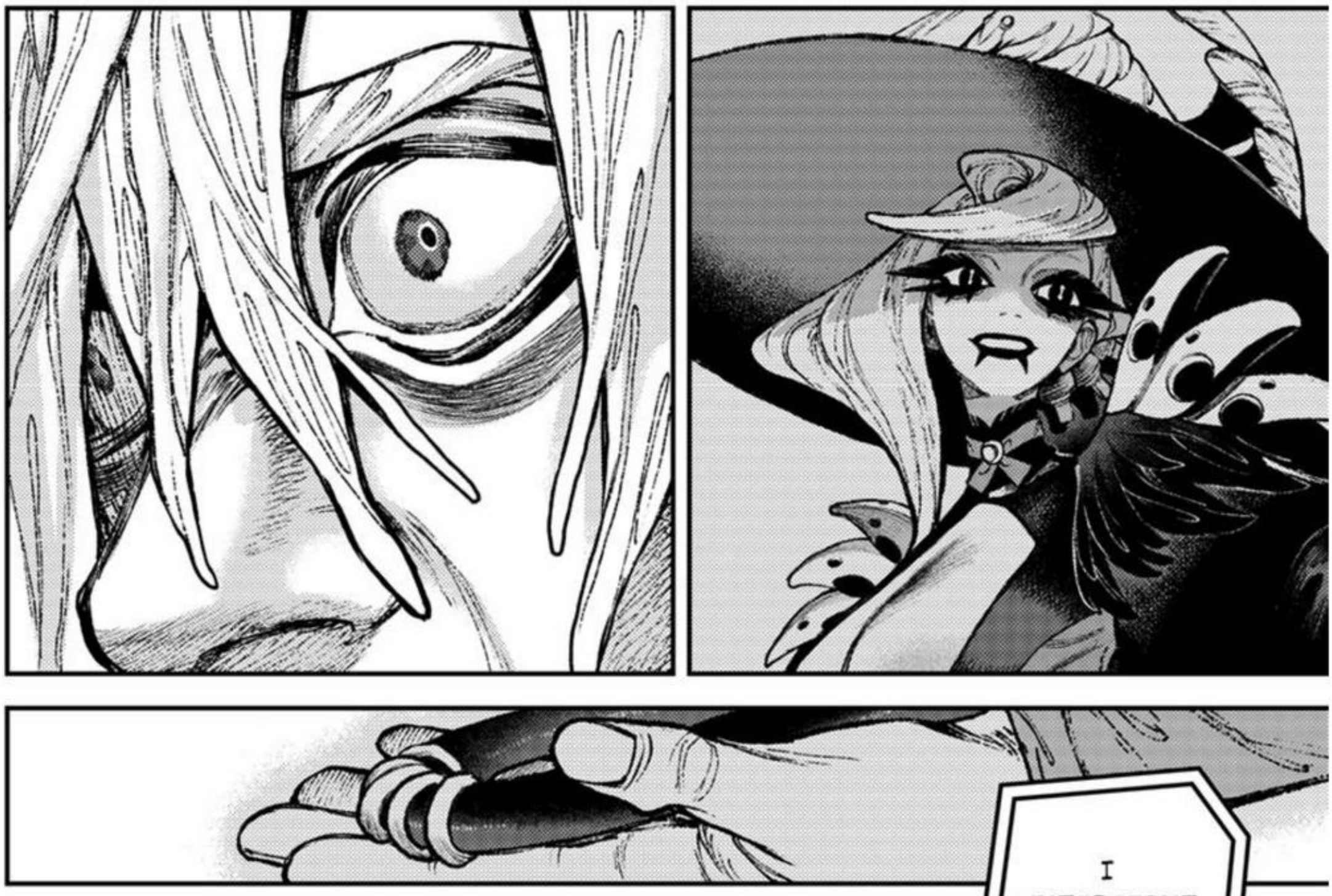
THIS ISN'T A REBELLION.

THIS IS REVENGE.

I'VE PASSED THE BATON TO RUDO.

KILL ME IF YOU LIKE, BUT MY REVENGE WILL GO ON UNHINDERED.

TOO LILY.



I UNDERSTAND SHE'S AN OLD, DEAR FRIEND OF YOURS...

...THE ONE TO WHOM YOU GIFTED THE FIRST CHOKER YOU EVER MADE.

THAT WAS IT, WASN'T IT?

YOUR PRIZE FROM TOO LILY.

YES, I UNDER-STAND NOW.

BUT WHEN I SAW RUDO, I WAS CONVINCED.

...!

IT MUST HAVE TAKEN SO MUCH EFFORT TO HIDE HER FROM ME.

NOW THEN...

I HAVE ONE LAST JOB YOU'RE GOING TO DO FOR ME.

GOUNTESS.

GOUNTESS.

I HAVE ONE LAST JOB YOU'RE GOING TO DO FOR ME.

YOU'VE ENDURED A LOT OF PAIN...

...TO PROTECT TOO LILY, HAVEN'T YOU?

CHAPTER 148: CONNECTION

THE POOR BOY WON'T MAKE IT TO ADULTHOOD.

HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RUN, OR EVEN GROW UP.

AND HE LOST BOTH HIS PARENTS TO THAT DISEASE...

THEY'RE SAYING HE WAS BORN WITH A WEAK HEART...

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BRING PEACE TO THE BOY'S HEART NOW...

...WOULD BE THAT NECKLACE, I SUPPOSE.

MY BODY HAD NO FUTURE.

ALL IT HAD FOR NOUR-ISHMENT WAS PAIN.

HUFF HUFF HUFF

I'M SURE...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

GOUNT-ESS!! HANG ON!!

...I WAS LUCKY THAT I AT LEAST HAD SOMETHING TO CLING TO.

GOUNTESS. TAKE THIS NECKLACE.

BUT NEVER GIVE IT TO ANYONE WHO ISN'T A PART OF THE SUREBREC FAMILY.

I WANT YOU TO HOLD ONTO IT WHEN THE PAIN IS TOO MUCH.

IT USED TO BELONG TO THE SUREBREC FAMILY.

I GOT IT FROM A FRIEND OF MINE...

IT WON'T BE KIND TO JUST ANYONE.

"TO ITS MASTER, IT OFFERS A CHOICE."

"TO THOSE WHO ARE EMPTY, IT BRINGS PEACE."

"TO THOSE WHO ARE FULFILLED, IT ACTS AS A POISON."

...

MY DAD WAS RIGHT.

WHEN I TOUCH THIS NECK-LACE...

...SOME-HOW...

...IT DISTRACTS ME A LITTLE.

HUFF HUFF

FROM THE EMPTINESS I FEEL FROM NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THE WORLD.

EVEN SO...

...

WHEN AM I GOING TO DIE...?

FWAH

THMP

WHEW.

SQUIRM

...HUH ...?

...?

!!

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE WAS THERE!!

AAHH!

スカッ SKEE

I'M SORRY PLEASE!

UH, THE CHAIR... I'M SORRY I SAT THERE WITHOUT ASKING PLEASE!

...

I WAS TIRED, SO I SAT DOWN WITHOUT THINKING!

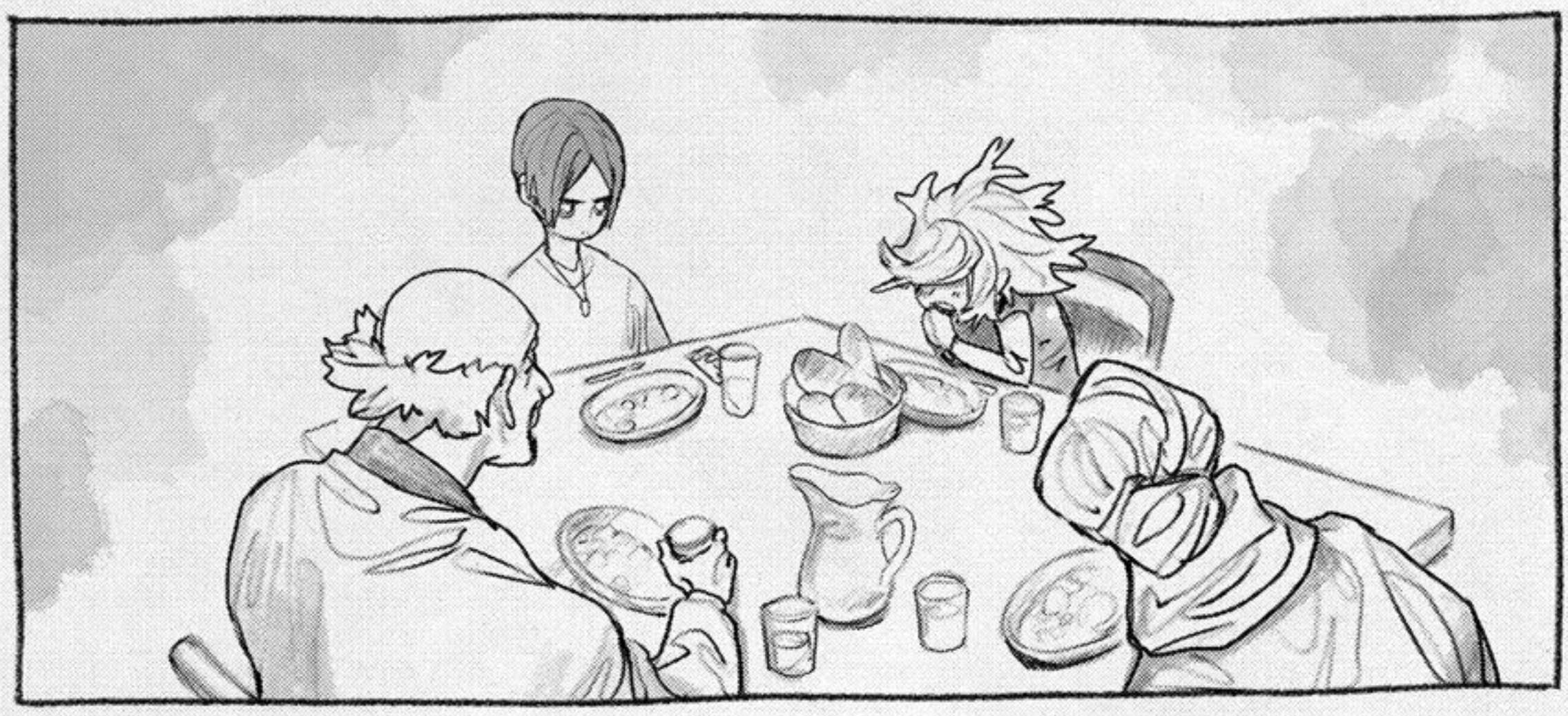
UM, HELLO, NICE TO MEET YOU!

GURGLE

MY NAME IS...

GRGGRRRRRRUMBLE

MY NAME IS LILY!



GRAMPS
GRAN
A CHILD LEFT ALL ALONE AND HUNGRY. YOU POOR THING.
EAT ALL YOU WANT, LILY, DEAR.
WE CAN'T LET A KID GO HUNGRY, EVEN IF SHE'S NOT OURS!
EAT, EAT!
I-I'M REALLY... ALLOWED TO EAT THIS FOOD PLEASE?

YOU HAVE SUCH PRETTY WHITE HAIR.

LET'S PULL THOSE BANGS BACK SO THEY DON'T GET DIRTY.

IT MUST BE NICE TO BE SO FULL OF LIFE.

OH, IT'S IN YOUR HAIR, TOO!

YOUR MOUTH IS COVERED IN FOOD.

LILY, BE CAREFUL, DEAR.

OH!

I FEEL SICK.

I WANT QUIET.

GO AWAY.

YOU'VE COME BY ALMOST EVERY DAY LATELY.

...AREN'T YOUR PARENTS WORRIED?

THEY ALWAYS SAID I WAS TOO NOISY!

THEY GOT MAD AT ME LOTS OF TIMES, BUT FINALLY THEY LEFT ME IN THE TRASH HEAP!

BUT I WAS LONELY, SO I WORKED REALLY HARD TO FIND MY WAY HOME!

THEY'RE GONE!

NOPE!

AND MY HOUSE WAS EMPTY!

IF I'M TOO NOISY...

I WON'T COME ANYMORE.

BUT AT LEAST...

I...

...DON'T HAVE A FUTURE.

...I HAVE A HOME.

SO YOU CAN COME OVER...

...WHEN-EVER. I GUESS.

...GRANDMA AND GRANDPA SMILE A LOT WHEN YOU'RE HERE...

...WOULD DISAPPEAR INTO THE VOID WITHOUT EVER THAWING.

I THOUGHT MY FROZEN HEART...

...EVEN A HEART LIKE MINE...

...THAT WHEN IT CONNECTS WITH SOMEONE...

BUT UNFOR-TUNATELY I HAD TO FIND OUT...

...CAN START TO FEEL WARMTH.

CHAPTER 149: VITAL INSTRUMENT "CONNECT"

K MANGA

by KODANSHA

THAT IS HOW TO LIVE WHEN YOU HAVE A LIMITED LIFESPAN.

"DON'T GIVE IN TO IMPULSES."

MA...

...GIC...

M...

C... CL...

CLOWN ...

IMPULSE ...

BUT WHY DO YOU ONLY EVER READ BOOKS WITH CLOWNS AND MAGIC?

YOU'RE GETTING REALLY GOOD AT READING AND WRITING.

...IS WHAT CAUSES SHORTNESS OF BREATH.

...IF A CLOWN COULD USE MAGIC!

I BET IT WOULD BE SO MUCH FUN...

NO, IT'S JUST GRANDMA'S CANE...

ACTUALLY A SORCERER'S WAND?!

NO WAY! IS THAT STAFF...

THERE'S BEEN A QUES-TION ON MY MIND LATELY.

A STAFF!!

TEE HEE HEE! THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS MY MAGIC WAND.

WHA ...?

DOES THAT MEAN GRANDPA IS ALWAYS SMILING BECAUSE GRANDMA CAN USE MAGIC, PLEASE?!

WHAAAT?!!

MAYBE YOU WOULD LOOK AFTER THIS WAND FOR ME.

フボ GFF

WHAT!!

I CAN SEE YOU HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A REAL WIZARD, LILY, DEAR.

...CAN SHE SMILE?

HOW...

GOUNTESS!!

I DON'T GET IT...

...

THERE CAN'T HAVE BEEN ANY LIGHT IN THE ENVIRONMENT LILY GREW UP IN.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

I'M GETTING YOUR OXYGEN MASK...

HOLD ON, IT'S OKAY!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

SO HOW ...?

OXYGEN.

IT'S COMING MORE EASILY THAN USUAL...

I WANT TO KNOW.

GOUNTESS!!

...OH...

I'M HERE FOR YOU.

...THE BUGS WILL TAKE OVER MY HOUSE!

BUT THAT'S OKAY. IF I DON'T GO HOME...

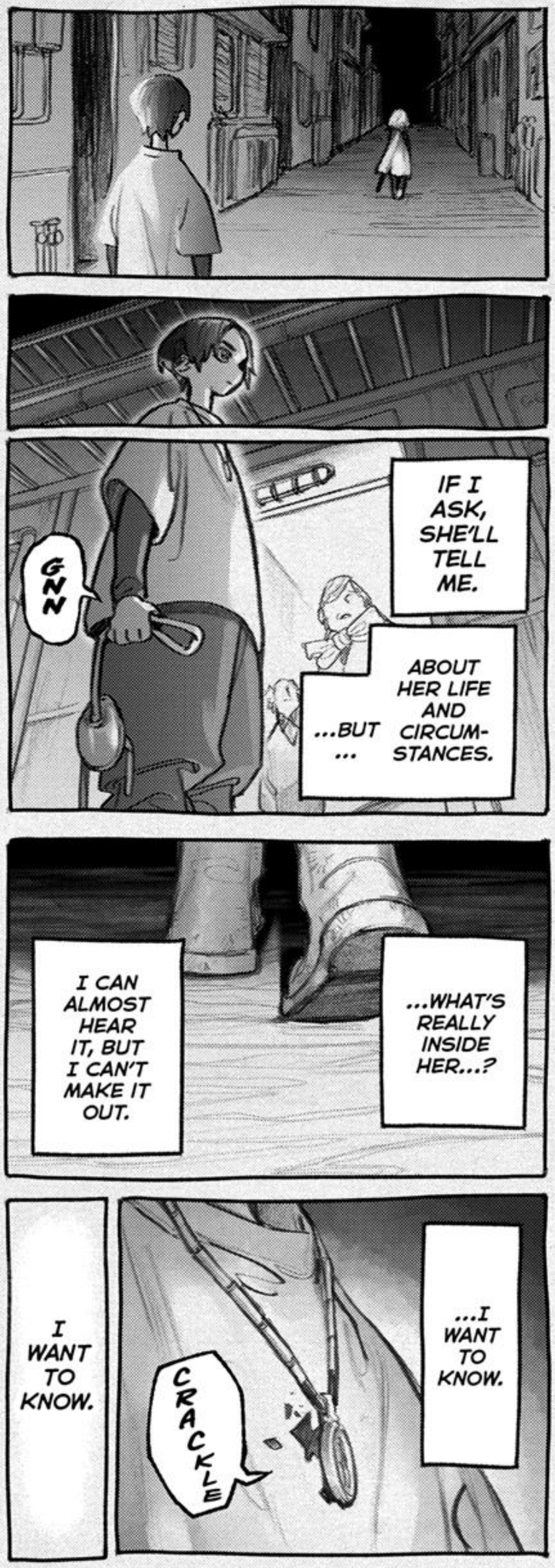
IT'S GETTING DARK. YOU SHOULD STAY THE NIGHT HERE.

IN FACT, IF YOU LIKE, YOU CAN COME TO LIVE WITH US.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

LILY, DEAR.

I WANT TO HEAR...


GNN
IF I ASK, SHE'LL TELL ME.
...BUT ...
ABOUT HER LIFE AND CIRCUM-STANCES.
I CAN ALMOST HEAR IT, BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT.
...WHAT'S REALLY INSIDE HER...?
I WANT TO KNOW.
CRACKLE
...I WANT TO KNOW.

IMPULSE

...LILY'S REAL VOICE.

THE FIRST IMPULSE I EVER FELT IN MY LIFE...

...MADE ME INTO A GIVER.

THIS THING IS SO COOL!!

GOUNTESS!

IT'S NOT A PHONE, BUT IT STILL LETS ME HEAR YOUR VOICE...!!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A WIZARD, TOO!!!

WHEN THE INITIAL EXCITEMENT DIED DOWN, I WAS SURPRISED.

...AND I NEVER THOUGHT THAT WAS IN THE CARDS FOR ME...

I'M A GIVER.

IT TURNS OUT I WASN'T EMPTY YET.

PEOPLE WHO BECOME GIVERS...

HAVE STRONG ATTACH-MENT AND POSSESS GREAT ANIMA.

I GUESS I HAD A WISH AND THIS NECKLACE GRANTED IT?

NOW WE CAN BE TOGETHER WHENEVER WE WANT!

THERE, YOU SEE?

I KNEW IT.

IMPULSES CAUSE SHORTNESS OF BREATH.

?!

IT'S LILY'S VOICE...?!

NN.

NNGH...

OH NO, IS THERE NO WAY TO TURN THE LISTENING POWER OFF?!

PRIVACY!!!

THERE'S A VOICE COMING FROM MY NECK-LACE...

WHAT THE ...?

BLINK

...MM...

!!!

?!?!

...MA-MA...

SNIFF...

NNGH...

WHY...

WHY WON'T YOU COME HOME ...?

THIS IS WHY LILY ALWAYS MADE SURE TO GO HOME.

SHE WANTED TO BE CONNECTED TO HER PARENTS.

...NOW I GET IT.

IF I CONCEN-TRATE, I CAN HEAR IT.

THAT SMILE.

SHE DOES IT TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY...

AND TO BE HAPPY HERSELF.

IT'S HER ATTEMPT TO FIGHT BACK.

LISTEN-ING ISN'T ENOUGH.

I WON'T REACH HER THAT WAY.

LILY.

I'LL BE YOUR HOME.

I'M HERE.

MY REAL POWER...

MY REAL WISH...

...IS TO REACH THE PEOPLE WEAR-ING MY CHOK-ERS.

TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THEIR HEARTS.

I TAKE THOUGHTS ...

...AND VOICES...

...AND I DELIVER THEM TO THE SOUL.

AND I WILL GRATEFULLY MAKE USE OF THAT POWER.